

CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO CONSIDER A STATUS REPORT ON THE FLEET RULE AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL URBAN BUS TRANSIT AGENCIES

The Air Resources Board (the Board or ARB) will conduct a public meeting at the time and place noted below to consider a status report on the public transit bus fleet rule.

DATE: March 21, 2002

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: San Diego County Administration Center
Supervisors Chambers, Room 310
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

This item will be considered at a two-day meeting of the Board, which will commence at 9:00 a.m., March 21, 2002, and may continue at 8:30 a.m., March 22, 2002. This item may not be considered until March 22, 2002. Please consult the agenda for the meeting, which will be available at least 10 days before March 21, 2002, to determine the day on which this item will be considered.

This facility is accessible to persons with disabilities. If accommodation is needed, please contact ARB's Clerk of the Board by March 7, 2002, at (916) 322-5594, or Telephone Device for the Deaf (TDD) (916)324-9531, or (800) 700-8326 for TDD calls outside the Sacramento area.

In February 2000, the ARB adopted the public transit bus fleet regulation, set forth in title 13, California Code of Regulations (CCR), sections 1956.1-1956.4, 1956.8 and 1965, as amended on February 24, 2000. This regulation is designed to achieve significant reductions in emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and particulate matter (PM), through the implementation of a fleet rule and emission standards for new bus engines. Emission reductions will be achieved as transit agencies purchase new low-emission buses or repower older, higher-emitting buses to lower-emitting configurations. Reductions in diesel PM will also be achieved through the retrofit of engines with emission control systems and the use of low sulfur fuel.

The Board directed staff to work with transit agencies on the rule's implementation and to provide regular updates on the progress of implementation to the Board. In September 2001, staff presented the first status update to the Board on the following topics: (1) transit agency progress in complying with the NOx fleet average requirement; (2) implementation

progress of the alternative NOx strategy exemption applications; (3) analysis of the first alternative NOx strategy exemption application; (4) status of advanced aftertreatment systems; and (5) progress on development of hybrid-electric bus test procedures. Staff summarized the status of the transit agencies' implementation efforts and provided recommendations on the applications for NOx emission strategies as an alternative to purchasing new buses with engines meeting the 2004 engine standards. At the conclusion of the September meeting, staff was directed to provide a second update in March 2002 on the compliance progress of transit agencies that have not met the 4.8 g/bhp-hr NOx fleet average and on the implementation of the alternative NOx emission reduction strategies by the 15 transit agencies that applied by June 30, 2001.

This meeting is informational only and no regulatory action is being proposed at this time; however, the Board may recommend regulatory action for future consideration if necessary. The ARB staff will present an oral summary of the written status report at the meeting. Copies of the report may be obtained from the Board's Public Information Office, 1001 "I" Street, 1st Floor, Environmental Services Center, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 322-2990, at least 10 days prior to the meeting. The report may also be obtained from the ARB web site at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/bus/bus.htm> prior to the scheduled meeting. If you are a person with a disability and desire to obtain this document in an alternative format, please contact the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator at (916) 323-4916, or TDD (916) 324-9531, or (800) 700-8326 for TDD calls from outside the Sacramento area.

Interested members of the public may present comments orally or in writing at the meeting, and in writing or by e-mail before the meeting. To be considered by the Board, written comments and submissions not physically submitted at the meeting must be received **no later than 12:00 noon, March 20, 2002**, and addressed to the following:

Postal mail is to be sent to:

Clerk of the Board
Air Resources Board
1001 "I" Street, 23rd Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

Electronic mail is to be sent to bus02@listserv.arb.ca.gov and received at the ARB **no later than 12:00 noon, March 20, 2002**.

Facsimile submissions are to be transmitted to the Clerk of the Board at (916) 322-3928 and received at the ARB **no later than 12:00 noon March 20, 2002**.

The Board requests but does not require 30 copies of any written submission. Also, the ARB requests that written and e-mail statements be filed at least 10 days prior to the meeting so that ARB staff and Board members have time to fully consider each comment. Further inquiries regarding this matter should be directed to Dr. Nancy L.C. Steele, Manager of the Retrofit Implementation Section, at (626) 350-6598.

CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD

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Michael P. Kenny
Executive Officer

Date: February 22, 2002